

The Development of Cooperatives Movement in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province Project

ABSTRACT

The Development of Cooperatives Movement in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province purposes of this study were: 1) to study the groups, organizations, and networks as a whole; 2) to promote and develop these groups, organizations, and networks; 3) to study the indicators for success of value chains in solving the poverty problem.

This study was a qualitative participation action research. Secondary data were collected from the concerned organizations, and the officers, leaders were interviewed. The SWOT and AIC techniques were used to analyze the capability of the groups, organizations, and networks in order to promote, develop, and find out the value chains in solving the poverty problem.

The research findings revealed that the groups, organizations, and networks were 417 registered cooperatives of various types, and 2544 non-registered groups. There were 8 provincial networks consisting of 2 cooperatives unions, 4 community financial networks, and 2 community product networks. The process of development movement of the groups, organizations, and networks was in the form of profit groups in occupation, welfare, the learning of local development of the community, and for the goals or enhanced power device on the part of people and the government. The majority of group settings were initiated by the government policy. Most of successful groups and networks were the long-term setting up organizations based on the following factors: leadership, honesty, devotion, and people's participation. The structure of administration was not firmly fixed. There were rules and regularities in the working process, however, they were not strict. Most of the groups depended on individuals, trust, and respect towards the leaders. As a result, the groups, organizations, and networks did not develop due to the lack of skills in administrative management, lack of strategic plans and goals in working process to satisfy the members' need. There were no lesson conclusion and no working participation from people, group members, organizations, and networks. The concerned organizational support was not continually operated. There was no integrated approach nor integrated organization. It was in the form of *lasses-faire*.

It was found from the study that value chains could solve the poverty problem in three forms: (1) community financial network, that is, the network of saving group (called Sajja Group) for life-time moral development Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; (2) community product network, that is, the network of marketing community product of Muang Nakhon; (3) area network, that is, the network of Tambol Chalermphrakiat Cooperatives, Tambol Khaokhaw, Amphoe Thungsong. The factors for success of value chains in solving the poverty problem were indicated by the forms of the relationship of the connected value chains with strategic plans, vision, goals and objectives of the working process of the networks based on the members' participation and organization's support, as well as the process of network activities which satisfied the members' needs and solve the poverty problem in various dimensions. Those dimensions were: economic, educational, social, political, and cultural dimensions. The main purpose was to develop the group members of the networks to become really valuable cooperatives members.